

ECU22042 — Economic Issues B

Module Information	
Module Code	ECU22042
Module Title	Economic Issues B: The Economics of Innovation
Department	Economics
Year Group	Senior Fresh
Module Personnel	Yuen Ho
Academic Year	2026-27
Credit Weighting	5 credits
Semester	Semester 2
Contact Hours	22 hours of lectures and 5 hours of tutorials

Content Module	
Module Description	Information, research, and innovation are key drivers of growth and prosperity in the modern economy. Policy makers, entrepreneurs and lawyers need to understand the economics of research and innovation. They also need to be familiar with the various means of fostering sustained innovation in a world of proliferating intellectual property rights. Finally, interactions of innovation with the workplace, global trade, and society will be considered. Key topics that may be discussed (time permitting) include: ● Market failures for innovation ● Institutions for innovation ● The economics of intellectual property rights ● Technology adoption and diffusion ● Innovation and globalization ● Innovation within firms ● Applications to new information technologies
Module Learning Aims	This course addresses the economics of research and incentives for innovation and how innovation interacts with

Content Module	
	society. Topics include the standard economics of invention; modern intellectual property rights; the diffusion of new technologies; considering innovation within a global context; the microeconomics of how innovation occurs within firms; and case studies of key innovations across sectors and their implications for society.
Learning Outcomes	On successful completion of this module, you will be able to: • Apply the simple but powerful economic tools available for study of the economics of innovation. • Analyse key aspects of public policy, market structure, and incentives related to innovation. • Assess common barriers to inventive activity and the adoption of new technologies. • Critically evaluate innovation within a globalized context
Indicative Reading / Resources	Readings, including academic papers, book chapters, and other background readings, will be provided by the lecturer. A detailed reading list will be provided at the start of the term.

Assessment	
Assessment Components	• Online Quiz 1 15% • Online Quiz 2 15% • In-person exam 70%
Assessment Details	

Additional Information	
Prerequisites	ECU11011/13 and ECU11021/23 or equivalent
Co-requisites	None
Any other information	